

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-36 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12-15, 18, 21, 22 and 24 as being allowable. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23 and 25 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection based on 35 USC 112. As the Examiner will note, the rejected claims have been amended to incorporate the Examiner's helpful suggestions. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25 are now in condition for allowance.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has proceed to make his restriction requirement final. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement and act on all of the claims of the present application. If the Examiner does persist with his restriction requirement, the

Examiner is authorized to cancel claims 26-36 in order to place the present application in condition for allowance.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicant's claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

The Official Draftsperson has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Official Draftsperson has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken.

In addition, attached hereto is a Letter to the Official Draftsperson requesting approval to make minor corrections to add a numeral to Figs. 1-3. It is respectfully submitted that once the substitute sheets of formal drawings are entered for Figs. 1-3 no further action is believed to be necessary at this time with regard to the remaining drawings in the present application unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Official Draftsperson.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 27, 2000. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

Claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's thank the Examiner for the helpful suggestions with regard to amending claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 16, 17 and 18. As the Examiner will note, the claims have been amended to incorporate the Examiner's helpful suggestions. The Examiner should note that "a holding section" referred to in claim 1 corresponds to a component denoted by reference numeral 26. With regard to claim 7, "another holding section" corresponds to a component denoted by reference numeral 186. Claims 1-25 are now in condition for allowance.

NO PROSECUTION HISTORY ESTOPPEL

Most of the claims of the present application have never been amended. Claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 16, 17 and 18 have been amended to incorporate minor corrections to provide proper antecedent or to incorporate the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, no prosecution history estoppel would apply to the interpretation of the limitations set forth in the claims in view of

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the fact that this subject matter has been continuously presented since the original filing date of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider his rejection and that it be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

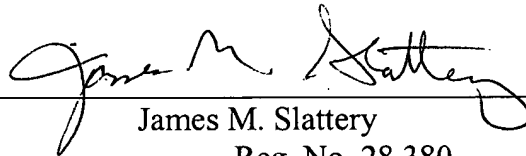
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title as follows:

Page 1

Line 1, change the title to:

APPARATUS [AND METHOD] FOR TIGHTENING FIXING BAND AND
CONSTANT VELOCITY UNIVERSAL JOINT APPARATUS

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said stopper section is provided with a first sensor for detecting said projection before said projection of said [rotating] fixing band arrives at a band-tightening position in said lateral direction, and said stopper mechanism is operated on the basis of a detection signal outputted from said first sensor.

6. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said stopper section is provided with a first sensor for detecting said projection before said

projection of said [rotating] fixing band arrives at a band-tightening position in said lateral direction, and a second sensor for detecting a fact that a first end of said stopper block abuts against said projection of said fixing band respectively, and wherein detection positions to be sensed by said first sensor and said second sensor reside in a pin point H and a pin point I respectively, and said pin point H and said pin point I are arranged substantially in parallel at portions deviated by predetermined distances in said substantially horizontal direction from a substantially central portion of said fixing band.

7. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said band-tightening section is provided with [a] another holding section for pressing and holding said projection of said fixing band positioned at a predetermined position, by means of a spring force of a spring member.

10. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said stopper section includes a first stopper mechanism for positioning said projection of said first fixing band, and a second stopper mechanism for positioning [said] a projection of [said] a second fixing band which is separated by a predetermined distance from said first fixing band;

said band-tightening section includes a first tightening mechanism for forcibly nipping said projection of said first fixing band, and a second tightening mechanism for forcibly nipping said projection of said second fixing band; and

said projections of said first and second fixing bands are tightened substantially simultaneously in a substantially simultaneously positioned state.

16. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said end-positioning [mechanism includes] mechanisms include a large diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said large diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin installed to said cup section of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position.

17. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said end-positioning [mechanism includes] mechanisms include a small diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said small diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin installed to said shaft section of said inner member of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position.

18. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said end-positioning [mechanism includes] mechanisms include a large diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said large diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin installed to said cup section of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position, and a small diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said small diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin installed to said shaft section of said inner member of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position.

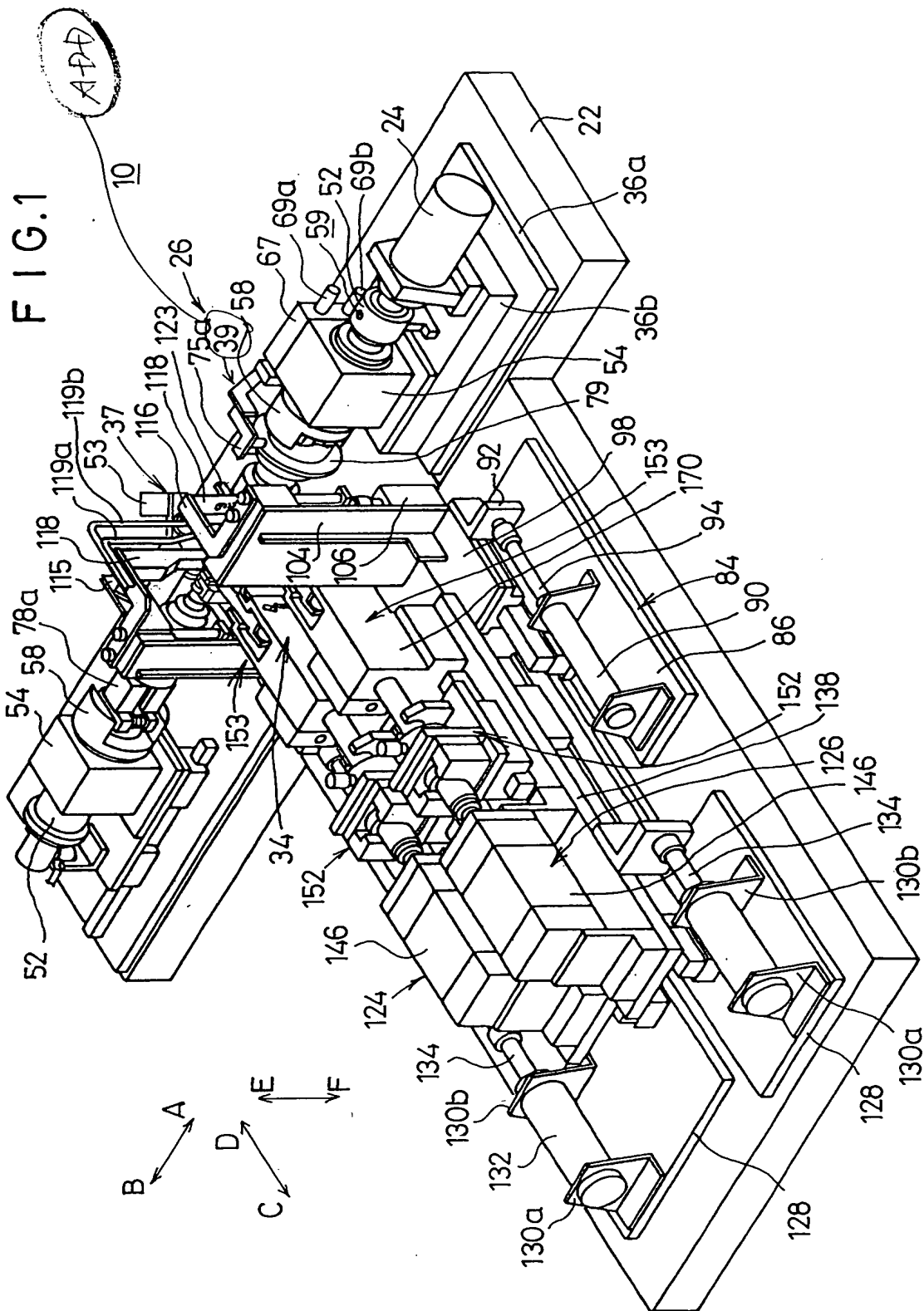
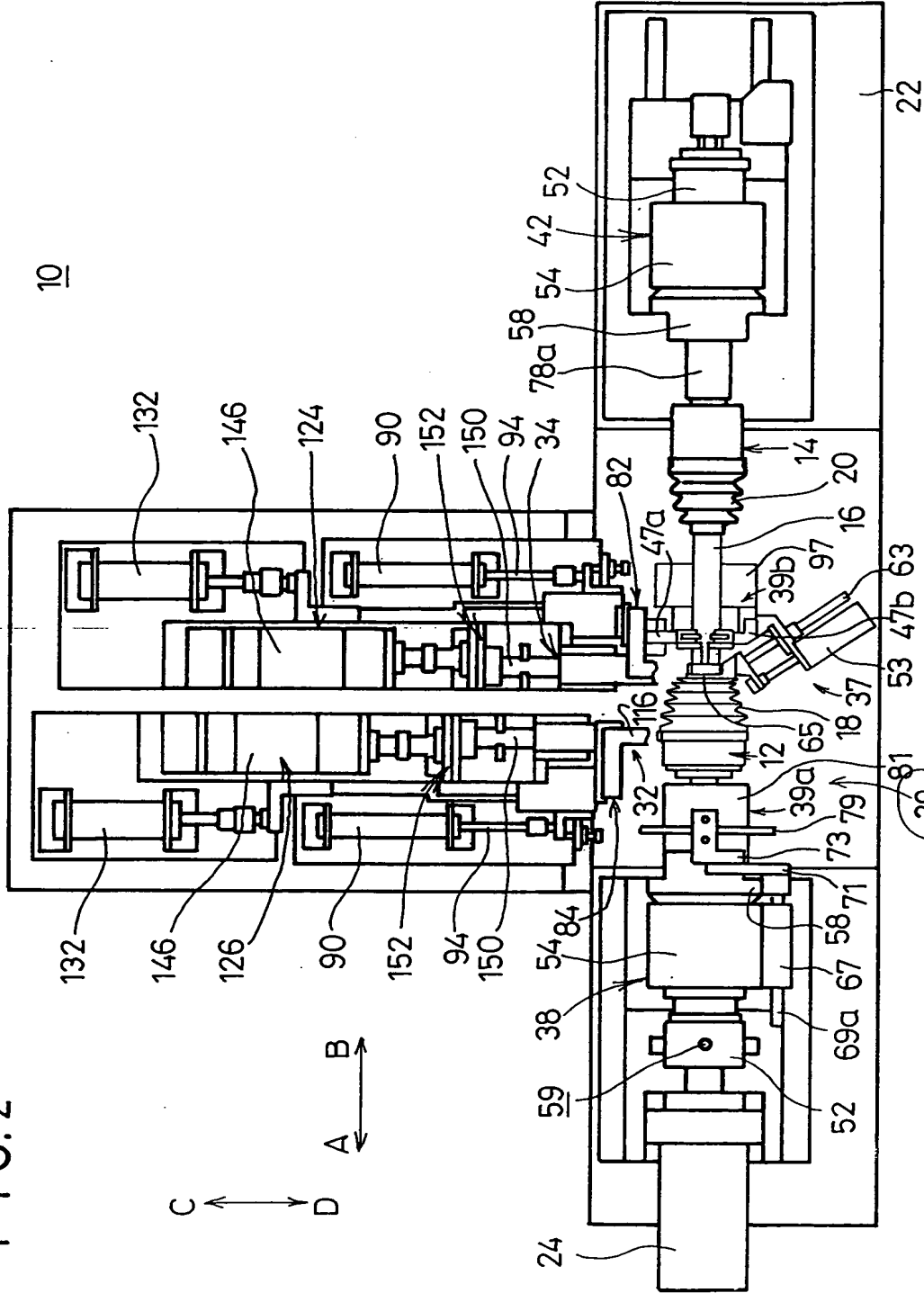


FIG. 2



ADD

